

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to compile data and information with respect to homicide offenses committed in the last five years in Louisiana, including information on the offense charged, any plea agreement, and dismissal, to determine the number of persons who had an active criminal justice status or prior criminal history at the time of the commission of the offense, to use this data and information to develop theories or trends with respect to a person's active criminal justice status or prior criminal history and its impact on the likelihood of the person's subsequent commission of a homicide, and to evaluate current bail and parole policies in order to focus greater attention and action on habitual violent offenders.

WHEREAS, according to a recent study of FBI statistics from 2013 through 2017, Louisiana has the highest murder rate in the United States with an average of over eleven murders per one hundred thousand people in the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, four of the metropolitan areas with the highest murder rates were in Louisiana – New Orleans-Metairie, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport-Bossier City – with each city having a murder rate twice the national average; and

WHEREAS, in light of these statistics on Louisiana's highest ranking homicide rate, it is imperative that the Louisiana criminal justice system develop a better understanding of the nature of these homicide offenses specifically with respect to a person's prior encounter or involvement with the criminal justice system and the role a person's active criminal justice

status plays in the likelihood of the person's commission of a subsequent homicide offense; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) is the state agency primarily charged with criminal justice policy planning and with conducting research on crime and the criminal justice system in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Planning Section of LCLE is charged with the identification and analysis of crime and criminal justice related problems and the development of a range of alternative solutions for consideration by criminal justice and legislative policy makers; and

WHEREAS, the role of the Policy Planning Section is to provide policy makers with objective, research-based information which can be used both in policy consideration and, by identifying costs and possible sources of success or failure, policy implementation; and

WHEREAS, Voice of the Experienced is a Louisiana non-profit organization founded by formerly incarcerated people, who consistently partner with researchers and other policy experts regarding mass incarceration, providing a unique wealth of insight and experience regarding criminal offenses, including homicide offenses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to compile data and information with respect to homicide offenses committed in the last five years in Louisiana, including information on the offense charged, any plea agreement, and dismissal, to determine the number of persons who had an active criminal justice status or prior criminal history at the time of the commission of the offense, to use this data and information to develop theories or trends with respect to a person's active criminal justice status or prior criminal history and its impact on the likelihood of the person's subsequent commission of a homicide, and to evaluate current bail and parole policies in order to focus greater attention and action on habitual violent offenders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice shall report its findings, including any legislative and policy recommendations, to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice may seek input, data, and information from criminal justice agencies and other relevant entities as is necessary to accomplish its purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE